

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On July 20, 2019, people in Texas, across the  
2 nation, and around the world will celebrate the 50th anniversary of  
3 the historic Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969, and this occasion  
4 provides a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the creation of  
5 NASA and to all 17 missions of the Apollo program; and

6 WHEREAS, Because our nation had fallen behind Europe in  
7 aircraft technology by the start of World War I in 1914, Congress  
8 created the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in March  
9 1915, and for the next four decades, NACA conducted aeronautical  
10 research that directly influenced the successful growth of the  
11 American aerospace industry; by the 1950s, NACA engineers were  
12 already thinking about the technology necessary to send men into  
13 space, including a worldwide tracking network, dual controls to  
14 give pilots greater autonomy over their craft, and heat shields for  
15 reentry into the atmosphere; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite these efforts, the Soviet Union was first  
17 into space, launching the Sputnik satellite in 1957; in response,  
18 our nation built on the earlier work of NACA and created the  
19 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which opened for  
20 business on October 1, 1958; NASA scrambled to quickly get the  
21 U.S. space program up to speed, and the urgency of the situation was  
22 made clear on April 12, 1961, when a Soviet astronaut became both  
23 the first man in space and the first man to orbit the Earth; less  
24 than a month later, Alan Shepard became the first American in space

1 during a short suborbital flight on May 5, 1961; and

2 WHEREAS, With the U.S. under tremendous pressure to catch and  
3 overtake the Soviet Union in the "space race," President John  
4 F. Kennedy sought a boldly ambitious project; he addressed a  
5 special joint session of Congress on May 25, 1961, declaring that  
6 "this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before  
7 this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him  
8 safely to Earth"; and

9 WHEREAS, President Kennedy expanded on this declaration in a  
10 famous speech at Rice University in Houston on September 12, 1962,  
11 when he stated, "this State of Texas, this country of the United  
12 States was not built by those who waited and rested and wished to  
13 look behind them. This country was conquered by those who moved  
14 forward--and so will space. . . . But why, some say, the moon? Why  
15 choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest  
16 mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic? Why does Rice play  
17 Texas? We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in  
18 this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but  
19 because they are hard"; and

20 WHEREAS, Building on the success of NASA's first two manned  
21 spaceflight programs, Mercury and Gemini, the scientists,  
22 engineers, and technicians of the Apollo program began to develop  
23 and build the necessary technology to carry out the lunar mission  
24 and to train the brave astronauts who would make the journey; much  
25 of the training was based at what is now the Johnson Space Center in  
26 Houston, which was also the home of the NASA mission control center;  
27 and

1       WHEREAS, The dangers inherent in spaceflight were lost on no  
2 one, and they became all the more apparent when the first scheduled  
3 manned mission, Apollo 1, ended in tragedy; astronauts Virgil "Gus"  
4 Grissom, Edward White, and Roger Chaffee were killed in a fire  
5 during a training simulation on the launch pad on January 27, 1967;  
6 the disaster caused NASA to reevaluate all aspects of the  
7 spacecraft and the program, but the Apollo administrators,  
8 technicians, and astronauts quickly rallied; between October 1968  
9 and May 1969, four manned missions were successfully completed to  
10 conduct various trial runs in space, and the flight of Apollo 8  
11 during Christmas 1968 became the first manned flight to orbit the  
12 moon and return to Earth; and

13       WHEREAS, On July 16, 1969, the astronauts Neil Armstrong,  
14 Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins of Apollo 11 lifted off from the  
15 Kennedy Space Center aboard a Saturn V rocket; after traveling  
16 240,000 miles through space, the conjoined Apollo command module  
17 and the lunar lander, dubbed "the Eagle," went into orbit around the  
18 moon on July 19; the following day, Armstrong and Aldrin left  
19 Collins behind in the command module, entered the lander, and  
20 descended toward the lunar surface; with only 30 seconds of fuel  
21 remaining, Armstrong set the spacecraft down on the Sea of  
22 Tranquility and coolly radioed the astronauts' status to mission  
23 control: "Houston, Tranquility Base here, the Eagle has landed";  
24 and

25       WHEREAS, Six and a half hours later, as a television camera  
26 beamed his image back to hundreds of millions of viewers on Earth,  
27 Neil Armstrong became the first human being to set foot on the moon,

1 making his famous pronouncement, "That's one small step for man,  
2 one giant leap for mankind"; Aldrin followed a few minutes later,  
3 and together the two astronauts spent two and a half hours on the  
4 lunar surface, taking photographs, collecting samples, and  
5 planting an American flag; the following day, they returned to  
6 their colleague in the command module, and on July 24, the three men  
7 returned safely to Earth; and

8       WHEREAS, Following the triumph of the first lunar landing,  
9 Americans returned to the moon six more times; one of the missions,  
10 Apollo 13, became known as a "successful failure" when, after an  
11 explosion on board crippled the command module, the ingenious  
12 improvisation of engineers on the ground and the bravery and  
13 determination of the crew allowed the astronauts to return safely  
14 to Earth; in all, the United States landed 12 men on the moon  
15 between the flights of Apollo 11 in July 1969 and Apollo 17 in  
16 December 1972; nearly 60 years after President Kennedy's address to  
17 Congress, the Russians have yet to land a single cosmonaut on the  
18 moon; and

19       WHEREAS, Between October 2018 and December 2022, NASA is  
20 marking the 50th anniversaries of the Apollo flights, and the  
21 official logo of these milestone anniversaries depicts the arc of  
22 Earth's horizon striking through the word Apollo against a star  
23 field that recalls the collective effort of the 400,000 people who  
24 worked on the program; three central stars symbolize the sacrifice  
25 of the Apollo 1 astronauts, Grissom, White, and Chaffee; behind the  
26 star field is a blue nebula that stands for NASA's bold plans for  
27 the next half century of American space exploration, including a

1 return to the moon and manned missions to Mars; and

2 WHEREAS, The 17 missions of the Apollo program represent one  
3 of the greatest scientific and engineering feats in history, and  
4 they remain a testament to human imagination and ingenuity and to  
5 the pioneering spirit of a great nation; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby commemorate the 17 missions of the Apollo  
8 program on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first moon  
9 landing in July 2019.

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H.R. No. 2210

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2210 was adopted by the House on May 27, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House